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Ἀλλ' ὁ τὸ μέγα τῷ ἐσι, τὸ δ' ἢ τῷ μέγα.

IN our last Remarks upon Dramatick Performances, we slightly ran thro' the *Rival Queens*, and Mr. *Dryden*'s *All for Love*; we shall now touch upon that admirable Piece of Poetry performed by him and Mr. *Lee*, viz. *OEdipus, King of Thebes*. I believe there is little or no Occasion for making an Apology, for picking out this Play from the other Works of those celebrated Authors; since it must be confess'd, that *OEdipus* is the fairest Piece of all Antiquity. *Sophocles*, not only the greatest Wit, but one of the greatest Men in *Athens*, made it for the Stage at the publick Cost; and it obtained the Reputation of being his Master-Piece over all his laudable Performances. I need not detain you here with a Representation of the Exactness of the Composition of it now on the *English* Theatre, but leave it to the Judgment of all impartial Readers. The Subject is certainly one of the most sublime and moral that could be introduced on the Stage. To begin with the Curtain rise; in what a miserable State is *Thebes* represented!

Dead Bodies appear at a Distance in the Streets, some faintly cross the Stage, others drop.

Thus, at the first View, we are led into a Commiseration of the Sufferings of an unknown People, and are work'd up by a strong Impulse of Nature, to know the unhappy Cause of what we must necessarily pity. —In Truth I don't know an Instance in any Play, where the Minds of the Spectators seem more attentive; which may be concluded by the deep Silence of the Theatre at the Entrance of *Alcander*, *Dicles*, and *Pyracmon*; not the least whispering Noise being made, whilst they are entertained with the deplorable Condition of a wretched Country; the Description of which is made in such lively and mournful Characters, as may well claim the Pity of a sorrowful Audience.

Alc. Methinks we stand on Ruins; Nature shakes
About us; and the universal Frame
So loose, that it but wants another Push
To leap from off its Hinges.
Dio. No Sun to chear us, but a bloody Globe
That rowls above; a bald and beamless Fire;
His Face o'er-grown with Scurf; the Sun's sick too;
Shortly he'll be an Earth.
Pyr. —— Blind Winter meets the Summer
In his Mid-way, and seeing not his Livery,
Has driv'n him headlong back: ——
Page 2. —— A thousand Deaths at once advanc'd,
And ev'ry Dart took Place; all was so sudden,
That scarce a first Man fell; one but began
To wonder, and streight fell a Wonder too;
A third, who stoop'd to raise his dying Friend,
Dropp'd in the pious Act. ——

And sure nothing could strike so deep an Horror into the Beholders as these following Lines;

Dio. A Troop of Ghosts took Flight together there:
Now Death's grown riotous, and will play no more
For single Stakes, but Families and Tribes.

As I mean to compass my Observations in this Paper, I shall wholly leave out the feign'd Characters; tho' they have severally Beauties worth distinguishing.

OEdipus's Character is exceeding taking. He is represented as a good, merciful, and expert Soldier, a Lover of his Country, and an excellent Pattern of Virtue; and therefore the Assembly can't help sharing his Misfortunes. His Crimes are the most heinous and shocking imaginable, but his Innocence retards our Accusation.

Act 2. P. 17. What a miserable State is *Thebes* here represented in! —— Yet with what Submission doth *OEdipus* behave himself in the Midst of this seeming Wreck of all Things! an excellent Virtue of a compleat Heroe! —

P. 18. *OEd.* Answer, you Pow'rs divine; spare all this Noise,
This Rack of Heav'n, and speak your fatal Pleasure.
—— Once more I ask your Pleasure!
If that the Glow-worm Light of human Reason
Might dare to offer at immortal Knowledge. ——

The Love of his Country is another heroine Characteristick, and admirably attributed to *OEdipus*: ——

—— Hear me, hear me, Gods!
Hear me thus prostrate. Spare this groaning Land;
Do this, and lo I stand up an Oblation
To meet your swiftest and severest Anger.
Shoot all at once, and strike me to the Center.

What *OEdipus* suffers for his Country, and his Willingness to submit himself a Sacrifice for it, is fully evident in the foregoing Passage; than which nothing could make us more pity his After-Miseries. ——

P. 37. The Exactness of the Ceremonies here needs no Observation, since they have receiv'd a favourable Judgment from a great many learned Authors.

P. 39. The Instance of the Ghost of *Laius* is worth admiring: —— And even the Murdered gives us a Hint of the Virtues of his Murderer, and proves his Innocence. ——

—— He who holds my Crown, ——
Was doom'd to do what Nature most abhors.
Some kinder Power —— ——
Took Pity, and indu'd his new-form'd Mass.
P. 40. With Temperance, Justice, Prudence, Fortitude,
And every kingly Virtue. ——
Ask'st thou who murder'd me? 'twas *OEdipus!*
Who stains my Bed with Incest? *OEdipus!*
For whom then are you curst, but *OEdipus?*

From *Thebes*, my Throne, my Bed, let him be driv'n;
Do you forbid him Earth, and * I'll forbid him Heav'n.

* I can't think this Sentence agreeable to the Character of *OEdipus*. —'Tis true his Crimes were the greatest, Patricide and Incest: but yet his Innocence shines unsullied; —— and I think the Judgment is pronounc'd too hard, *viz.* to be excluded Heaven, for sinning in what was past his Power and Knowledge to avoid; and far from a wilful one.——However, I'll leave it to the Judgment of our Readers. ——

When his narrow Search into the Murderers of *Laius* has forced the Truth from the good old *Tiresias*, we must excuse the sharp Expressions a sudden Passion makes him utter. But when he's left to himself, and Reason resumes her Seat again, how excellent is his Soliloquy! And again at the Close of the third Act.

P. 46. To you, good Gods, I make my last Appeal;
Or clear my Virtue, or my Crime reveal.
If wand'ring in the Maze of Fate I run,
And backward trod the Paths I sought to shun,
Impute my Errors to your own Decree;
My Hands are guilty, but my Heart is free.

Jocasta is represented a rare Composition of female Virtues. But the Limits of this Paper make me hasten on to *OEdipus* himself.

Act. 4. P. 49. I can't omit this excellent Soliloquy here.

When the Sun sets, Shadows, that shew'd at Noon
But small, appear most long and terrible;
So when we think Fate hovers o'er our Heads,
Our Apprehensions shoot beyond all Bounds;
Owls, Ravens, Crickets, seem the Watch of Death:
Nature's worst Vermin scare her God-like Sons.
Echoes, the very Leavings of a Voice,
Grow babling Ghosts, and call us to our Graves.
Each Mole-hill Thought swells to a huge *Olympus*,
While we fantastick Dreamers heave and puff,
And sweat with an Imagination's Load. ——

When *Jocasta* and *Ægeon* enter to *OEdipus*, with the transporting News of the Death of King *Polybus*, what a hearty Welcome he receives! The exceeding Transport he shews on this Occasion, is no more than what must necessarily be expected from one in his Condition.

The Description of the old King's Death is exceeding fine, and worthy Notice, by which he seems fully clear'd from old *Tiresias*'s Accusation, and seems justly to upbraid him with the Falsity of his Prophecy. All Things seem now to wear a joyful Face, and he himself appears transported out of Measure.

P. 54. *OEd.* Were I as other Sons, now I should weep;
But, as I am, I've Reason to rejoice:
And will, tho' his cold Shade should rise and blast me.
Oh, for this Death, let Waters break their Bounds,
Rocks, Valleys, Hills, with splitting *I*'s ring;
Io, Jocasta, Io pæan sing.

Here we may judge to find an happy End, but are disappointed by a sudden and very unexpected Turn of Fate; every Thing is now unravell'd, and by his positive Command the Murder of *Laius* fixt upon him. The working up of the Plot in this Act has such particular Beauties as cannot be sufficiently admired. The last Speech in this Act fully demonstrates the intolerable Tortures he labours under; tho' I wonder Mr. *Lee* should overlook such a Mistake as is manifested in the two first Lines: I think if they are both left out it won't be in the least defective for the Want of them; —— as thus,

P. 64. O that in very deed I might behold, &c.

The Scene which discovers *Jocasta* held by her Women, stabb'd in many Places, and her Children slain by her, is the very Depth of Tragedy, and yields a deal of Horror. *OEdipus*'s Speech before he throws himself from the Window is very lively and natural; and the Play ends with a beautiful Moral and worthy of Observation.

Let none tho' ne'er so virtuous, great and high,
Be judg'd entirely blest before he die.

Mr. *Register*, From *White*'s Chocolate-house.

I Have just now spared this Opportunity to write you this Letter, by Reason there is no Company here at *White*'s that I care to engage with.——However, split me! I don't care to spend my Time in making a tedious Introduction, and so shall enter directly pat (as the Saying is) upon my Subject.——Now, Mr. *Register*, in your Journal, N°. 133, you touch upon Ambition in Man, but don't mention one Word of that Vice in the Female Sex, to whom I think it is most proper.——My Lady *Betty Modish* has now by a Brace or a Leash or two of Years over-topp'd Forty, and yet she dresses to the greatest Extravagancy imaginable, uses all the Airs of a Girl of Fifteen, and has the Ambition of thinking herself all Perfection, and her Beauty not in the least impaired by the rough Hands of Time; she has certainly played the greatest Tyrant over our Sex that ever Woman did, and hath set the highest Value on her Favours.——Now, Mr. *Register*, I have very little Time hangs on my Hands, and shall therefore use my utmost Brevity.——I take the greatest Pleasure imaginable to mortify her; in her Company I talk of nothing but old Age, — faded Roses, — Things won't last for ever, — Hour-Glasses, — old *Time* is complimental to none.——I ask your Pardon, Madam, — I have been your humble Servant a great many

Years — &c. Nay t'other Day, (for indeed, Mr. *Regiſter*, I love to praiſe any Thing that is clever) I went to a noted *Gruhæan*, and giving him a Teſter, got him to tranſlate me the following Ode in *Horace*, which Yeſterday I took Occaſion to ſqueeze into her Hand with a great deal of Rapture; ſince which ſhe ſhews the utmoſt Averſion to me. If ſhe ſees me, ſhe ſtarts, turns ſhort; I burſt out a laughing, and ſhe flings herſelf from me.—

Hor. *Lib.* 3. *Ode* 15.

FIE, *Chloe!* fie! in Truth, 'tis Time;
(Conſider you are paſt your Prime;
There's no recalling Youth when paſt,
And ev'ry Day may be your laſt,)
'Tis Time to put an End to all
Your Sports, the Maſquerade, the Ball,
Play-houſe, *Spring-Gardens*, and *Vaux-hall*.
But *Lydia* goes — I doubt you'll ſay; —
Suppoſe ſhe does, ſhe's briſk and gay;
You're in *December*, ſhe in *May*.
Your Daughter *Molly* muſt not trace
Your Foot-ſteps, but ſupply your Place. —
She's too in Love, and Lovers may
Often indulge an Holy-day. ——
Let her have Freedom; let her rove,
And taſte the blooming Sweets of Love.
But *you* go; prithee ſtay within,
Command your Hand-maids, ſit and ſpin.
Leave off to paint your Viſage o'er,
And recollect you're Forty-four.

Now, *Sir*, you may take this Letter as a great Favour from me; for really the Time I ſpend in Dreſſing and at the Looking-Glaſs, the *Mall*, Play-houſe, and Drawing-Room, leave me very little to ſcribble ſuch a Thing as this is. —— I ſhall own an Obligation if you will be pleaſed to publiſh this in your Journal, and I'll beſtow one Three Half-pence to make a Preſent of it to my Lady.——I think this Sort of Vanity in the Female Sex, is a Subject you might enlarge upon very much in one of your Papers. ——I have (I think verily) the Maſter-Art of handling a Rapier well, and perhaps I may ſend you a Line or two ſome other Time upon Duelling.——I have had a great many Thoughts on the Ladies Straw-Hats; perhaps I may draw them up into one, and make you a Preſent of it. —— But ſtay —— here's Mr. *Townly* enters —— I ask your Pardon, *Sir*; I muſt ſign myſelf

Your moſt humble Servant,
TIM. FLUTTER.

N. B. *The Queries ſigned* John Coſteker, *are come to our Hands, and ſhall be inſerted in our next Paper.*

SATURDAY, *December* 16.

ON Thurſday Morning laſt Mr. *Bateman*, a Draper at *Eaton* in the County of *Bucks*, cut his Throat: He was a great Dealer, and always maintain'd a very fair Character, and is computed to have died at the leaſt worth 10,000 l. This unfortunate Accident is ſaid to be attributed to ſome Loſſes he lately met with.

This Day the two Envoys from the Dey of *Algiers* ſet out for *Portſmouth*, in order to return home; 2500 l. was paid them, by Order of the Government, to diſcharge their Tradeſmen.

We hear that Capt. *William Parry*, Commander of his Majeſty's Ship the *Torrington*, which carried the late Duke of *Bedford* to *Corunna*, and carried his Corpſe back to *England*, has been rewarded with a Preſent of 500 l. for his Care and Diligence in attending upon the ſaid late Duke.

On Monday laſt Mr. *Henry Smith*, of *Boxworth* in the County of *Cambridge*, got up early, in order to take a Journey in Company with a Neighbour, and was found hanged in a Cart Lodge near his own Houſe.

Laſt Week died, at his Seat at *Southwick* near *Portſmouth* in *Hampſhire*, *Richard Norton*, Eſq; who hath (as we are credibly inform'd) given all his real Eſtate, near 6000 l. *per Annum*, and alſo his perſonal Eſtate, upwards of 60,000 l. to the Parliament of *Great Britain*, whom he hath nominated his Executors, in Truſt to diſpoſe thereof in charitable Uſes at their Diſcretion; and in Caſe the Parliament refuſes to accept the ſaid Truſt, he then deſires the Right Reverend the Biſhops of *England* to execute the ſame; and we hear alſo he hath given all his fine Collection of Pictures to his Majeſty. He has alſo left Rings to all the Biſhops, which are to go to their Succeſſors, and ſo on *ad Infinitum*. We hear Col. *Whitehead* of *Titherly* in *Hants*, Dr. *Chicbley*, and other Relations, have enter'd Caveats againſt the ſaid Will.

Marriages. On Thurſday laſt the Hon. *Benjamin Bathurſt*, Eſq; eldeſt Son to the Right Hon. the Lord *Bathurſt*, was married to the eldeſt Daughter of the Right Hon. the Lord *Bruce*, at his Lordſhip's Seat at *Tottenham-Park* in *Wiltſhire*.——Yeſterday was married at St *Mary, Iſlington*, Mr. *Robert Turner*, an eminent Merchant of this City, to Miſs *Lloyd of Holborn*, an Heireſs of a great Fortune.

MONDAY, *December* 18.

On Saturday laſt a Servant of Lord *Shannon*'s aroſe out of his Sleep in the Morning, opened a Sath-Window three Stories high, fell out, and was kill'd on the Spot.

The ſame Day *Richard Wilſon*. who made his Eſcape about two Months ago from the Turnkey, as he was going to be put on board the Lighter at *Black-Fryars*, to be tranſported, was taken, after a ſtout Reſiſtance, in *Biſhopſgate-ſtreet*, by two of the Turnkeys of *Newgate*, who carried him back to *Newgate*, and he is now double fettered in the condemn'd Hold.

On Thurſday laſt his Majeſty in Council was pleaſed to appoint the following Gentlemen Sheriffs for the enſuing Year, *viz.*

Berks,	Edward Sherwood, Eſq;
Bedford,	Henry Southouſe of Ravendon, Eſq;
Bucks,	Poſtponed.
Cumberland,	Henry Aglionby, Eſq;
Cheſter,	Jeffery Shackerly, Eſq;
Cantab' & Hunt'	George Waddington, Eſq;
Devon,	Waldo Calmady of Langdon, Eſq;
Dorſet,	Sir William Napier, Bart.
Derby,	Poſtponed.
Ebor'	Thomas Condon, Eſq;
Eſſex,	William Harvey of Chigwell, Eſq;
Glouceſter,	Reginald Winyatt of Stanton, Eſq;
Hertford,	Poſtponed.
Hereford,	James Walwyn, Eſq;
Kent,	Sir Brooke Bridges, Bart.
Leiceſter,	Waring Aſhby, Eſq;
Lincoln,	William D'Autrey, Eſq;
Monmouth,	William Rees of St. Bride's, Eſq;
Northumberland,	John Reed of Belingham, Eſq;
Northampton,	Thomas Cook, Eſq;
Norfolk,	William Helwys of Morton, Eſq;
Nottingham,	John Diſney, Eſq;
Oxon,	Edward Turner. Eſq:
Rutland,	William Goding, Eſq;
Salop,	Thomas Lloyd of Heighley, Eſq;
Somerſet,	Sir J. Smith of Long-Aſhton, Bart.
Stafford,	Poſtponed.
Suffolk,	Poſtponed.
Southampton,	Thomas Morgan, Eſq;
Surrey.	Ralph Thrayle of Southwark, Eſq;
Suſſex,	Raymond Blackmore of Bayly, Eſq;
Warwick,	Egidius Palmer, Eſq;
Worceſter,	Edmund Lechmere, Eſq;
Wilts,	Job Polden, Eſq;
	South Wales.
Brecon,	Watſon Powell of Tilleglaſe, Eſq;
Carmarthen,	Richard Lewis of Barn's-field, Eſq;
Cardigan,	Thomas Lloyd of Bronwyth, Eſq;
Glamorgan,	Herbert Mackworth of the Knoll, Eſq;
Pembroke,	Poſtponed,
Radnor,	James Gronouſe of Norton, Eſq;
	North Wales.
Angleſea,	William Evans of Treveilyr, Eſq;
Carnarvon,	John Wynn of Glynllivou, Eſq;
Denbigh,	Robert Price of Bathavan-Park, Eſq;
Flint,	Richard Williams of Prubew'd, Eſq;
Merioneth,	Hugh Thomas of Hendre, Eſq;
Montgomery,	Roger Trevor of Bodenfull, Eſq;

Robbery. On Friday Night about Six o'Clock, Mr. *Langdell* of *Alderſgate-ſtreet*, was ſet upon by two Highwaymen at the Bottom of *Shooter's-Hill*, who robbed him of his Money, and cut his Horſe's Girt.

Commitments. A Man to *Newgate*, for Houſe-breaking. ——A Woman to the *Gatehouſe*, for picking a Gentleman's Pocket of two Guineas and ſome Silver.

Preferments. Col. *Thomas Paget*, is made Col. of the Regiment of Foot late Brigadier General *Dubourgay's*, deceaſed.——Col. *Onſlow*, of the Foot Guards, is made Lieutenant to the firſt Troop of Grenadier-Guards, in the room of the Earl *Howard* of *Effingham*, promoted to the Command of a Regiment of Foot.

Deaths. On Saturday laſt died at *Bath* the Right Rev. Dr. *William Bradſhaw*, Biſhop of *Briſtol*, and Dean of *Chriſt-Church*.——Laſt Week died the Counteſs of *Sutherland*, Wife to *John* Earl of *Sutherland*, one of the ſixteen Peers for *North Britain*.

TUESDAY, *December* 19.

We have an Account from *Picardy*, of the ſad Cataſtrophe of three Lovers at a Village call'd *Cramont* in that Province. The Scene was at an Inn, where the Maid-Servant being equally kind to two young Men who lived in the ſame Houſe, made an Aſſignation with one of them to meet at a certain Hour and Place in the enſuing Evening: Much Buſineſs in the Day, and more Importunity from her other Gallant, put out of her Head the firſt Appointment, and ſhe named to this laſt the ſame Time and Place which ſhe had done to the firſt: The Lovers, punctual to a Moment, all met, and were not a little ſurpriz'd at the Accident; but the Rivals ſoon mad. with Jealouſy and Rage, by conſent fell on their common Miſtreſs, and barbarouſly put her to Death; nor did the Cruelty end here, for one of the Fellows, dreading a Diſcovery from the other, ſoon after took an Opportunity and ſtabb'd him in his Bed; this he did from a firſt Thought, but from a ſecond recollecting that the laſt Murder could no Ways be conceal'd when the Day came on, he undertook the generous Part to rid the World of a Monſter, and hung himſelf before Morning, leaving a Detail of the foregoing Particulars upon a Table.

In the *Norwich Gazette* of *Dec.* 16. is the following Paragraph. On the 8th there was a general Meeting at *London* of the Importers of Wine of that City, and they unanimouſly agreed to raiſe a Fund, by allowing 6d. *per* Pipe on all Wines imported into *London* from and after the 1ſt of *January* next, to oppoſe any Exciſe that may be attempted to be laid on that Commodity in any Shape whatever: And appointed for a Committee, *William Chapman*, Eſq; Alderman *Champion*, Alderman *Godſchall*, *Robert Willimott*, Eſq; and ſome other eminent Merchants to manage the Affair.

They write from *Briſtol* the 16th Inſt. that on Saturday laſt were apprehended in that City, *William Cocking*, alias *Caution*, and *Francis Cocking*, alias *Noddy*, two Miners, for robbing and barbarouſly murdering *John Williams* on the 17th of *November* in the High Street of *Redruth* in the County of *Cornwall*, for the taking of whom a Reward of 20 l. was offer'd by ſome Gentlemen of the ſaid County: After being examined before the Magiſtrates of the Council-Houſe (to whom *William Cocking* confeſs'd he kill'd the ſaid Mr. *Williams* by an accidental Blow with a Stick in a Quarrel) they were committed to *Newgate*.

The Society of *Antient Britons* eſtabliſh'd in Honour of her Majeſty's Birth-Day, have hired *Merchant-Taylors-Hall* for the 1ſt of *March* next, and the Rev. Dr. *Middleton* is to preach the annual Sermon that Day at St. *Bride*'s in *Fleet-ſtreet*.

Sheerneſs, Dec. 15. One Mr. *Oliver*, a Coal-meter, belonging to *Milton*, near *Sittingbourn* in *Kent*, was found dead on board a Smack in *Stangate-Creek* Yeſterday Morning, and one of his Servants with him; occaſioned, as 'tis believ'd, by their being confin'd cloſe under the Scuttle, and going to ſleep with a Charcoal Fire in the Cabbin. There was a third Perſon in the ſame Cabbin almoſt ſuffocated, but thro' Care and Providence, was brought again to his Senſes.

Private Letters from *Turkey*, dated *Sept.* 11. mention, that their Wars and Troubles continue daily to increaſe; and, 'tis ſaid, that the *Perſians* had actually retaken *Erivan*, and were marching their Forces towards *Bagdat*; and likewiſe that a *Turkiſh* Man of War laden with Ammunition and warlike Stores from *Stambolen*, was taken by ſome of the *Malteze* Cruizers, who had been laying wait for her; and ſome Time ſince they took a *Sultana* of 70 Guns, one of the Convoy of the *Dalmatia* Fleet, and burnt another, which gives much Uneaſineſs to the Merchants of ſeveral Nations that are in thoſe Parts.

Extract of a Letter from Malaga, *dated* Dec. 2. N. S.

There is Advice in Town of an Action at *Oran*, the Succeſs whereof is ſo differently reported, that I don't know what to make of it; but what is certain is, that the General Marquis *de Santa Cruz* is kill'd, with the Marquis *de Villa Canas*, and ſeveral other Officers of Note, which, let the Succeſs be ever ſo favourable, muſt render it a fatal Day for *Spain*, the Marquis *de Santa Cruz* being look'd upon as one of the greateſt Men of the Kingdom, both for the Army and for the Cabinet. The Marquis *de Villadarias*, now here, goes over to command in his Place; and let the Expence be ever ſo great the Court ſeems reſolved to maintain the Place.

Commitments. Yeſterday four young Men were apprehended in St. *Giles's*, and being carried before a Magiſtrate, and charg'd upon the Oath of *Richard Matkall*, one of their Accomplices, with having committed ſeveral Robberies in the Streets, and alſo upon the *Hampſtead* and *Highgate* Roads, they were committed to *Newgate*, and the Evidence to *New-Priſon*.——A Woman to *Newgate*, for picking a Gentleman's Pocket of 35 Guineas.

WEDNESDAY, *December* 20.

Last Night the Corpſe of Mrs. *Harris*, who died a few Days ſince at her Houſe near St. *James's*, was interr'd at St. *Bride's* with great Solemnity; and according to a Requeſt made in her Life-time, the Organs began to play, and the Bells ſtruck up the Moment the Corpſe entered the Church.

Yeſterday *Bartholomew Harnet* ſtood in the Pillory at the *Royal-Exchange*, purſuant to his Sentence at the *Old-Bailey*, for falſly ſwearing a Robbery on the Highway againſt *William Holmes*, a Sawyer, and was ſeverely pelted by the Populace; and on Saturday he is to ſtand a ſecond Time in *Biſhopſgate-ſtreet*, and on the 1ſt of *Jan.* he is to ſtand at the End of *Chancery-Lane* in *Fleet ſtreet*.

Yeſterday was Se'nnight a Pipe-maker of *Bow* near *Stratford*, was found murder'd near *Woodford-Bridge*; the Body was warm when it was diſcover'd, but the Author of the Murder is not known: Great Diligence is employ'd to apprehend a Fellow who has been lurking ſome Days about *Epping-Foreſt*, and is violently ſuſpected to have been concern'd in it.

Dublin, Dec. 12. They write from *Liſnaskea*, that on Thurſday laſt died there, aged 140 Years, *William Leland*, Gent. Some Time before his Death, he delivered to ſeveral Gentlemen in this Country the following Account. That he was born in *Warrington*, a Town in *England*, in 1593; that he perfectly remembred the Coronation of King *James* I. which happened in 1602; that he lived in *Warrington* till about 1664, and then came to this Kingdom, and has lived ever ſince in good Credit: And what is moſt to be admired, he was never ſick or loſt his Sight, Limbs or Stomach till the Hour of his Death; he was prodigious tall and big-boned.

Robbery. On Monday Night Mr. *Gardiner* of *Kenſington Gravel-Pits*, was attacked on his Return from *London* home between *Tyburn* and *Byſwater* by two Foot-pads, who rifled his Pockets of his Money, and beat him in a cruel Manner.

Preferment. His Majeſty has been pleaſed to appoint *Edward Trelawney*, Eſq; Repreſentative in Parliament for *Weſtlow* in *Cornwall*, to be one of the Commiſſioners of the Cuſtoms.

Marriage. Yeſterday Capt. *Robert Bootle*, Commander of the *London*, an *Eaſt-India* Man, and Brother to Counſellor *Bootle*, Member of Parliament for *Liverpool*, was married to Miſs *Anne Tooke*, a young Lady of a great Fortune.

Bankrupts. John Sedding, of the Pariſh of St. *Mary-le-bone*, in the County of *Middleſex*, Corn-chandler and Chapman.——*William Brown*, late of the Pariſh of St. *Clement Danes*, in the County of *Middleſex*, Victualler and Chapman.

THURSDAY, *December* 21.

Yeſterday a General Court was held at the *Eaſt-India* Houſe, when the Court of Directors laid before them ſeveral Proviſions they had made for the preventing the Abuſes of their Servants both abroad and at home; all which being approved of, the Court of Directors then acquainted the General Court, that in Conſequence of the Reference made to them they had proceeded towards the Reduction of the Intereſt of the Company's Bonds, and that above two Millions of thoſe Bonds were come in, and marked for an Intereſt of 3 ½ *per Cent.* and they were effectuating what remained to be done in the beſt Method they could, declaring, that if they found any Difficulty therein, they would acquaint the General Court therewith; which being likewiſe approved of, a Queſtion was then moved, that the half yearly Dividend at *Chriſtmas* be 3 ½ *per Cent.* but it being neceſſary, in order to reſolve this Queſtion, to know whether the Court of Directors continued in their former Opinion, that the Dividend ought to be but 3 *per Cent.* they were deſired to clear that Matter; and they thereupon declared, they had very lately taken into their Conſideration the State of the laſt Sale, and the above Reduction of Intereſt, and all other the Company's Circumſtances, and upon the Whole they adhered unanimouſly to their former Opinion: Whereupon the Queſtion, after a long Debate, was put, whether the next Dividend ſhould be 3 ½ *per Cent.* and it was carried in the Negative, and a Ballot demanded.

Yeſterday a Trial came on at the Court of *Common-Pleas* in *Guildhall*, before the Right Hon. the Lord Chief Juſtice *Eyre*, upon an Action of Debt brought by Mr. *James Hankil* againſt the Widow and Executrix of *Humphrey Morris*, Eſq; deceaſed, one of the Directors of the *Bank of England*, for Goods ſold and delivered: After a full Hearing, the Jury gave a Verdict for the Plaintiff for 2135l. 15s.

Yeſterday came on the Sale of the *South-Sea* Company's *Greenland* Ships, at their Houſe in *Threadneedle-ſtreet*, which were put up at 1200l. *per* Ship, to advance 5l. twenty of which ſold on an Average at 1350l. *per* Ship; all being ſold except the Ship *Induſtry*; on which there were no Bidders.

The ſame Day the Lady of *William Eaſt*, Eſq; Member of Parliament for the Borough of St. *Maws* in *Cornwall*, was delivered of a Daughter ſtill-born, at his Houſe in *Sackville-ſtreet, Piccadilly*.

The following is the Inſcription on the Monument juſt erected in *Weſtminſter-Abbey*, to the Memory of the late Earl *Stanhope*.

Memoriæ Sacrum Viri Prænobilis

JACOBI *Comitis* STANHOPE,

Quem pro multiſaria Ingenii præſtantia ſplendida Honorum varietas gradatim illuſtravit. Caſtris ab ineunte Adoleſcentia innutritus, perpetua Titulorum ſerie, ad Militaris faſtidii Gloriam, ſine Invidia, viam ſibi munivit. Quid Exercitus Imperator geſſit, Teſtis eſt Hiſpania, & affixa veraci Præconio loquuntur Numiſmata.

Nec in Civilibus Rebus dirigendis minorem adeptus eſt Celebritatem. Cum nullum fere eſſet Officium illuſtrius, in quo ipſum non exercuit Fortuna Patriæ: In quo ipſe non emicuit Adjutor Patriæ fidus & ſagax. Regi a Secretis, Fœderum graviſſimorum Auctor fuit Perfectorque. In Ærarii Adminiſtratione caſte verſatus, delicatam Publicarum Pecuniarum Fidem, temperato ſolerter Fœnore, conſervavit integram. In utraque Senatus Curia, vivida dicendi facultate præpollens, arrectos Auditorum Animos inflammavit. Ipſe interea in medio ardentis Eloquii æſtu, immoti Judicii Tranquillitate, ſibi conſtans.

Has Belli Paciſque Artes ſuaviſſimæ Indolis Humanitate condientem, Politioriſque Doctrinæ Deliciis Intervalla Negotiorum elegantiſſime diſtinguentem, Patriæ diutius prodeſſe, niſi per ſuperſtitem optimæ ſpei Progeniem, vetuit Mors præmatura.

In *Engliſh* thus:

In Memory of the Right Honourable

JAMES Earl *STANHOPE*,

Who was gradually dignify'd by a Variety of Honours, ſuitable to the various Extent of his Genius. Being form'd to the Camp from his earlieſt Youth, he roſe unenvied, thro' a continued Series of Promotions, to the Height of Military Command. Spain *may witneſs his Exploits as a General, and the Medals underneath record them without Flattery.*

Nor was he leſs celebrated for the Conduct of Civil Affairs; there being ſcarce any of the great Employments of State, to which he was not call'd by the Exigences of his Country; and in the Diſcharge of them, he always diſtinguiſh'd himſelf as a faithful and able Miniſter. As Secretary of State, he projected and compleated the moſt important and difficult Alliances. As firſt Commiſſioner of the Treaſury by his Diſintereſtedneſs and Prudence, he ſo manag'd the Reduction of the publick Funds, as at the ſame Time to preſerve the publick Credit entire. As a Member of both Houſes of Parliament, by his forcible Manner of ſpeaking, he fix'd the Attention, and warm'd the Paſſions of his Hearers; but when his Expreſſions even glow'd with the Fire of Eloquence, he ſtill retain'd a ſteady Conſiſtency of Judgment.

Such were his Accompliſhments as a Soldier and a Stateſman; all which he ſweeten'd by an amiable Benevolence of Temper, elegantly filling up his Intervals of Leiſure, with the Entertainments of polite Literature. But a too early Death prevented him from being longer ſerviceable to his Country, otherwiſe than by the promiſing Iſſue, which he has left behind him.

Robbery. On Tueſday in the Evening three Lacemen coming to Town from *Buckinghamſhire*, were robbed by two Highwaymen, in the Lane between *Acton* and the *Green Man*, who took from them their Boxes of Lace.

Commitments. A Woman to *Newgate*, for killing her Baſtard-Child.——A Man to the ſame Jail, for ſtealing a Till out of a Tallow-chandler's Shop, wherein was ſome Silver and a large Quantity of Half-pence.

Marriages. Laſt Week *Robert Gilleſpie*, of *Axbridge* in the County of *Somerſet*, Eſq; was married to Miſs *Roach*, of the ſaid Place, a young Lady of a conſiderable Fortune.——The 12th Inſtant, *Thomas Hayward*, Eſq; of *Quedgley* in *Glouceſterſhire*, was married to Miſs *Parſons*, of *Breedon* in the ſame County, a young Lady of 10,000l. Fortune.

Death. On Tueſday laſt died Mr. *Webb*, an eminent Wholeſale Grocer, at his Houſe in *Watling-ſtreet*, poſſeſſed of a plentiful Fortune.

FRIDAY, *December* 22.

A comical Accident happen'd lately at a Tallow-chandler's not far from the *Royal-Exchange*: About Two o'Clock in the Morning an Exciſeman came to ſurvey the Tallow-chandler's Stock in his Cellar, and ſearching about, diſcover'd a private Door that was lock'd up, which he demanded to be open'd, but was told the Perſon was not in Town that rented it; but the Officer inſiſting upon it, he was anſwer'd again, he muſt then fetch a Conſtable; accordingly he went and brought one with him, but in the Interim the Tallow-chandler perceiv'd a Chimney-Sweeper's Boy near his Door, and bad him black his Face as much as he could, and then put him in and lock'd the Door: When the Officer and Conſtable open'd the ſame, the Boy appearing they both ran out, and tumbled one over the other; the Exciſeman was ſo terrified, that he fell into Fits, and would gladly be removed into another Walk.

On Saturday Night laſt a Sharper came to the *Devil* Tavern at *Temple-Bar*, and called for their Porter, ordering him to go with him to his Chambers in the *Temple*; accordingly he carried him to a Stair-Caſe in *Pump-Court*, where he ſtopt, and gave him a Note on Meſſieurs *Gould* and *Fream*, Bankers in *Lombard-ſtreet*, for 35l. to receive the ſame, and come to him at the *Devil* Tavern: Juſt as he was going, he asked him what Silver he had in his Pocket, he wanting to diſcharge a Coach that had brought him from *Kenſington*; the Porter readily gave him what Money he had about him, which was 4s. 11d. and went with the Note; but ſoon found that he was tricked, they not knowing any ſuch Perſon that had Caſh in their Hands; and on his Return home found that the Sharper had not been there ſince.

A Watchmaker on *Holborn-Hill*, who had a Wife endow'd with ſome Faculties that were diſagreeable to him, ſhe being taken very ill ſome little Time ago, declar'd to all his Neighbours, ſhould it pleaſe God to take her from him, he would entertain them all very handſomely; it happened ſhe dy'd, and laſt Tueſday he entertain'd a great Number of them at the *Globe* Alehouſe on the ſaid Hill very elegantly.

Yeſterday came on the annual Election of Officers for the ſeveral Wards of this City, when very little Alteration was made among the Common Council Men.——In *Walbrook* Ward, an Attempt was made to chuſe Mr. *William Arnold* and Mr. *Robert Heyſham*, Common-Council-Men, and a Poll was begun for them, but given up——In *Vintry* Ward, Mr. *Richard Pitts* was choſe in the room of Mr. *Whitaker*, who is removing out of the Ward.——In *Aldgate* Ward, Mr. *Daniel Lambert*, in the room of Capt. *Joſeph Hiſcox*, removed out of the Ward.——In *Langbourn* Ward, Mr. *James Hebert*, in the room of Mr. *Hawys*.——And, in *Biſhopſgate* Ward, great Oppoſition was made for the Precinct of *Alhallows, Lombard-ſtreet*, by Mr. *Daniel Weſt* againſt Mr. *James Dancie* and Mr. *Cotton*, who were return'd by the Alderman; but Mr. *Weſt* demanded a Poll, which is to begin this Day.

Robberies. Laſt Saturday in the Afternoon *Mountain*, the *Monmouth* Carrier, and *Gappy*, the *Exeter* Packman, were ſtopp'd about Seven o'Clock on *Sunbrook-Green*, between *Brentford* and *Hounſlow*, by two Highwaymen well mounted and armed with Blunderbuſſes: They took 35l. 15s. from Mr. *Mountain*, and ſome Goods from the other and about 7l. who making ſome Reſiſtance, they beat him over the Head with their Whips in a cruel Manner, and ſwore he had 100 Guineas more in his Boots, which they cut off, then cut the Bridles and Saddles from their Horſes, and threw them over the Hedge.——Monday laſt about Five o'Clock the *Newington* and one of the *Edmonton* Coaches were robbed by three Highwaymen, well mounted, between the Sign of the *Cock* and the *Palatine* Houſes: They were ſeen to go before the Coaches through *Biſhopſgate* and great Part of *Shoreditch*; two ſtopped the *Newington* and one rode to the other Coach, and got a conſiderable Booty——Laſt Night Mr. *Calvert*, a Brewer, and his Footman, coming to Town, were attack'd on this Side *Kingſland* Turnpike, by ſeveral Highwaymen, who took Mr. *Calvert*'s Watch and Money, and both their Horſes, and Portmanteau.——This Week the *Colcheſter* Coach coming to Town with a ſingle Paſſenger in it, was robb'd by one Highwayman; who took from the Gentleman his Money, and afterwards rifled the Seats of the Coach, and flung all the Parcels into the Road, but carried off the Gentleman's Portmanteau.——Yeſterday about five in the Evening the *Hackney* Stage Coach was robb'd on *Cambridge Heath*, by a ſingle Highwayman.

Commitment. Yeſterday two Boys, the eldeſt not nine Years of Age, were committed to *Newgate*, for robbing ſeveral Shops and Houſes.——The ſame Day a Girl of ten Years of Age was committed to the ſame Goal, for receiving Goods ſtolen by the ſaid Boys.

Marriage. On Sunday laſt *William Bently*, of *Clapham*, Eſq; was married to Miſs *Bennet*, of *Tuten*, a young Lady of a great Fortune.

High Water at *London-Bridge*, Saturday the 23d of *Dec.* 3 56 in the Morning, and 4 11 in the Afternoon.

Sund.	4 26	Morn.	4 42	Aft.	Wedn.	6 12	Morn.	6 54	Aft.
Mon.	4 58		5 15		Thurſ.	6 57		7 21	
Tu.	5 33		5 53		Friday	7 47		8 15	

Transfer Books. India ſhut *Dec.* 19, open *Jan.* 18, Dividend paid 29. South-Sea ſhut *Dec.* 20, open *Feb.* 9. Three per Cent. 1726 ſhut *Dec.* 19, open *Jan.* 23. Ditto 1731 ſhut *Dec.* 20, open *Jan.* 24. Equivalent ſhut *Dec.* 21, open *Jan.* 4. Div. 2 per Cent. paid *Jan.* 11. Royal-Aſſurance ſhut *Dec.* 14, open *Jan.* 16.

FOREIGN PORTS.

Leghorn, Dec. 14. *Arrived* the Dragon, Clark, from *Genoa*; Weſt-India Merchant, Barlow; Chitty, Shelton, *Petersburgh*; Diligence, Dudgeon, *Yarmouth*; Rebecca, Anſtice; James, Perchard, *Newfoundland*; Annuntiation, Cornick, *Nantz*; Happy Jennet, Green, *Meſſina*.

Barcelona, Dec. 14. *Arrived* Friend's Goodwill, Kenniday, from *England*.

Alicant, Dec. 10. *Arrived* Neptune, Thomas, from *Falmouth*; Loyalty, Wallis; Reſolution, Browning, *Barcelona*; George, Peyton, *Genoa*; Palmtree, Young, *Dublin*; Hamburgh-Merchant, Page, *Lisbon*; Willing-Mind, White; Dove, Seagard, *Newfoundland*.

Arrived at Cadiz the Mayflower, Smith; Granada, Gibſon, from *Sardinia*; Valentia Packet, Auſtin, *Barcelona*; Fortune, Bootle, *Liverpool*; Three Brothers, Oliver, *Shorham*; Mary Ellen, French, *Waterford*.

Lisbon, Dec. 6. *Arrived ſince the 24th of November* the Exchange, Stevens; Heſſer and Mary, Wylie; Lamb, Mulcreen; Virginia Merchant, Hooper; Mermaid, Byrne, from *Ireland*; Unity, Chapman; Fancy, Oliver; Expedition Packet, Cliſs; John, Ward; Suſannah, Rodier; Thomaſin, Page, *England*; Anna Maria, Vermy, *Amſterdam*; Ann and Jennet, Greig, *Mazagam*; Friendſhip, Raſton, *Hamburgh*; Warrington, Hipper, *Madeira*.

HOME PORTS.

Whitehaven, Dec. 13. *Arrived* the George, Fletcher, from *Virginia*.

Liverpool, Dec. 17. *Arrived* the Cleaveland, Jones, from *Riga*.

Briſtol, Dec. 18. *Arrived* the Suſanna, Holland, from *Carolina*.

Falmouth, Dec. 16. *Arrived* Martier, Thume, from *Leghorn*; David and Nicholas, Labbe, from *Dieppe*, for *Nantz*; Falmouth, Chubb, *Lisbon*.

Plymouth, Dec. 8. *Arrived* Expedition, Talcot, from *Denia*; the Judith, from *Leghorn*; Scanymph, Broaded, *Streights*; Diſpatch, Harris, St. *Sebaſtian*; Thomas and Rebecca, Bowles, *Malaga*; Rogers, Butler, *Lamatt*; Providence, Welch, ———, for *Oſtend*.

Dartmouth, Dec. 17. *Arrived* the Joyce, Newman; Charming Molly, Woolcot; Modbury, Prideaux; Two Batchelors, Dixon, from *Lisbon*; Port Merchant, Robins, *Vienna*; Two Brothers, Wakeham, *Figuera*.

Weymouth, Dec. 17. *Arrived* Endeavour, Bignal, from *Petersburgh*, for *Briſtol*.

Pool, Dec. 17. *Arrived* Chriſt-Church, Holloway; Agnes and Mary, Mitchel; Sturminſter, Linthorn; Friend's Adventure, Wallis; Thomas, Osbourn, all from *Newfoundland*; George, May; Blanchard's Adventure, Blanchard, *Lisbon*.

Southampton, Dec. 18. *Arrived* Tyger, Breton, from *Alicant*, for *Oſtend*.

Dover, Dec. 19. *Arrived* Mary, Wright, from *Minorca*, for *Amſterdam*; Tobias, Brown, from *Riga*, for *Morlaix*.

Deal, Dec. 20. *Sailed* St. Joſeph, Del Barco, for *Bilboa*; Cadiz Frigate, Jackſon, for *Oſtend*. *Remain bound out* Falmouth and Sheerneſs *Men of War*; Britannia, Moulton, for St. *Kitts*; Don Carlos, Clark, *Canaries*; Morant, Higgins; Charming Sally, Fiſher, *Jamaica*; London, Wenlock, *Lisbon*; Amarillis, Bennet, *Briſtol*; Meſſenger, Whitfield, *Oporto*. *Arrived* Richard, Knowling, from *Lisbon*; Italian Merchant, Carteret; Mary, Sanders; Concord, Macliſter; Mediterranean, Harris; Neptune, Shepherd; Greyhound, Harriſon; Ann, Brown; Neptune, Godley; Oriana, Pelham; Heſſer, Green, *Streights*; Nottingham, Peeldie, St. *Kitts*; Providence, Flurio, *Barbadoes*; Goodwill, Spurrier, *Seville*; Wigmore, Ford, *Bilboa*; Beyer, Anderſon; Brothers, Roe; Proſperous Ann, Finch, *Virginia*; Clarendon, Crawford, *Jamaica*.

Graveſend, Dec. 20. *Arrived* Moore, Moore; Royal Phœnix, Baxter; Elizabeth and Mary, Maples; Charming Molly, Powel, from *France*; Fox-Hunter, Haynes; Prince of Aſturias, Sinnot; Hardingſton, Wilkinſon; Tower, Wingfield; Cato, Jell; Johanna, Huddy; Neptune, Peppercorn; Thomas and Jane, Denton; Nelly, Bogie, from the *Streights*; Lucitania, Ducket; Charraing Molly, Thompſon; Lisbon Galley, Blackabee, *Lisbon*; Guilford, Bye; Three Brothers, Allen; Friend's Adventure, Kennet; Catherine, Breton; William and Mary, Gutteridge; Happy Return, Lake, from *Seville*; Williams, Chapman, St. *Ubes*; Seaflower, Cooper, *Bilboa*; Batchelor, Warnes; Mahon, Jones, *Cadiz*; Algarve, Olding, *Faro*; Ford's Green, Curling; Clement, Ruſſel, *Petersburgh*.

FOREIGN NEWS.

Paris, Dec. 22. N. S.

A Daughter of one named *de Vaux*, an humble Attendant of the Court, aged eight Years and three Months, is now four Months and a Half gone with Child, by a Boy between ten and Eleven Years of Age. The Queen has been pleaſed to encourage this young Pair: The Girl has been handſomely dreſſed, in order to be brought before her; and her Majeſty has forbid her Father and Mother to be angry with her, or to ſee her: And theſe two merry little Folks are immediately to be married together.

From *Moulin*, they tell us of a *Paiſan*, or Country-Fellow of that Town, one *Bezancon*, of an Age more advanced, *viz.* 99 Years, married ten Months ago to a Woman, that is to ſay, a Maid of 30, who is lately brought to Bed. They add, that the Man is of a good robuſt Conſtitution, able to hold out for many Years.

From *Manheim*, that the Elector of *Bavaria*, after having had a long Conference with the Elector *Palatine*, was gone to *Bon*, to ſpeak with his Brother the Elector of *Cologn*. This occaſions very particular Diſcourſes; but nothing more is known, but that the Elector of *Bavaria* is levying Troops.

Naples, Dec. 2. N. S. On the 29th *ult.* we felt here a violent Shock of an Earthquake, which did conſiderable Damage to the Churches, Palaces, and other Buildings in this City; but by good Providence, there was no Perſon killed. The Fright, however, was ſo general, and the Fear ſo great, that almoſt all the Nobility retired into the Country the ſame Day; and at Night, notwithſtanding the Weather was exceſſive cold, all the People got together in the great Squares and Suburbs, for fear of being buried under the Ruins of their Houſes. The next Day we received Advice, that the ſame Earthquake was likewiſe felt throughout the Country called *Terra di Lavoro*; that the Town of *Oriano* was almoſt ruined by it; as was alſo that of *Mirabello*; that ſeveral Perſons were killed; and that the Town of *Avellino* had ſuffered very much. It is written from *Palermo* in *Sicily*, that the ſame Day there was a great Earthquake alſo in that City.

LONDON, *Exchanges on*

Amſterdam	35
Ditto at Sight	34 10
Rotterdam	35 3
Hamburgh	34 2
Paris	32 ½ a ⅝
Bourdeaux	31 ⅞ a 1
Cadiz	42 ¼
Madrid	42 ½
Bilboa	42 ¼
Leghorn	50 ⅛ a ⅜
Genoa	53
Venice	48 ⅝ a ¾
Lisbon	5 5 ½
Oporto	5 5 a 4 ⅞
Antwerp	35 8
Dublin	11 ½

AMSTER. *Dec.* 22, N.S. *Exchanges on*

London	34 5
Ditto at Sight	34 7 ½ a 7
Hamburgh	32 ½
Paris	55
Bourdeaux	55
Cadiz	102 ⅜ a ½
Madrid	82 ¼ a 82
Bilboa	81
Leghorn	88
Genoa	93 ¼ a ⅜
Venice	85 ¼ a ⅜
Lisbon	45 ⅜ a ½
Agio *per Cent.*	3 ⅜ a ¼
Antw. Loſs *p.c.*	2 ¼

Hops	
1730 *l.*	19 to 3 *l*
1731 5 *l*	to 6/10
Coals	26 28
GRAIN *per* Quarter.	
Wheat	25 26
Rye	12 15
Barley	13 16
Oates	10 13
Tares	18 20
H. Beans	18 20
H. Peaſe	16 18
Boil. dit.	20 22
MALT.	
Pale	21 23
Brown	19 21

STOCKS	
S.S. 105	a ⅛
Annu. 109	⅝
Bank 149	¾
India 156, 156½, 156¼	
3p. C. 101	⅛
MBan 115	
Afric. 35	
Y. Bu. 3	
RAſſ. 105	⅜
L. ditt 13	⅜
ECop. 1 *l.* 18 *s.*	
Ditt 1 *l.* 13	
N. Bank Cir 5	
IBon. 5 3*s*	
S.S. 2 *l.* 10*s*	
3p. C. I. Bonds 2 *l*	

CHRISTNED			
M. 163	} In all 330		
F. 167			
DIED			
Under	2		254
From Old 2 to	5		35
5	10		24
10	20		22
20	30		39
30	40		67
40	50		72
50	60		59
60	70		69
70	80		31
80	90		24
Upwards	90		4
Bu. M. 329. F. 371.			
Total 700.		Decr. 34.	

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